

On New Year (Losar)

PART 2

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

February 27, 2017 On a Video Call to Tashi Choling from Half Moon Bay

Please don't do like I did. Since 1973, I have been lying and cheating you all. I don't have outer, inner, or secret qualities, but I have seen others, real lamas, who do have qualities, outer and inner, outside and inside. I have seen how clean, how pure they are, what value there is in that. These wonderful lamas are Dudjom Rinpoche who is Vairochana, Yangthang Rinpoche who is Vimalamitra, the Dalai Lama who is Chenrezig himself, Penor Rinpoche—such wonderful lamas, one by one, each of these are real living buddhas and bodhisattvas.

These lamas, they came to America, they have given teachings, empowerments, transmissions, instructions, everything. It is time to appreciate that. What do you need to appreciate? How do you need to appreciate it? What you need to appreciate is what you have received. How do you appreciate it? You need to practice. Practice and teach each other, stage by stage.

At least OM BENZAR SATTO HUNG, we do know how to say that. OM MANI PEME HUNG we know. OM BENZAR KILI KILAYA SARWA BIGHNEN BAM HUNG PHET—we do know these. We know how to say, "I take refuge in the Buddha; I take refuge in the Dharma; I take refuge in the Sangha." We have these things, everyone knows them.

Don't be the same year after year, so you start out but you are still the same after one year, and still the same after two years or three years, maybe even after 100 years, goddammit; we are still the same! Still the same because still rotten with the five poisons.

It is time to wake up. You think you are a Westerner and so you don't need to practice? You don't need to do the dharma? You are a human being! You are a human being with a precious human rebirth. You do have that. You have everything you need, outerly, innerly, and secretly. You can use these. Everything you need, you have, and you can use these to benefit yourself and others. You do have everything, you can't complain, "I don't know! I don't know that!" You can't complain and say you don't know. Don't do that. All these things you have, they are your chance, your opportunity, all the teachings you have received.

You can use these, use them for yourself. Use them for yourself so you are more honest with yourself! At least even if we aren't honest with others, we should be honest with ourselves. But we not only want to cheat others, we want to cheat ourselves.

We want to cheat others out of their money, out of their position—do you think that is Buddhism? Maybe. But I don't think Buddha Shakyamuni taught that. I don't think that is the Buddhism that came from India. I don't think that is what Buddha Shakyamuni taught at

Varanasi. I don't think anyone in India, any of the real teachers or lamas have taught that. You can ask real lamas, others, not me. You can ask them—I don't think any will say that this is Buddhism.

We need to recognize that the five poisons are our problem. If you don't recognize that, you have no idea what you should give up or what should you keep. We are shameless. Why do we have to do that? How can we stand up in front of the lama, in front of the teacher? The bottom line is that we are hollow. The bottom line is that we cheat ourselves. We harm ourselves. We cheat ourselves by pretending. The bottom line is we cheat ourselves, we screw up ourselves.

How can we say that we are Buddhist? Think about the Buddha's history, his life story, how he became enlightened, what he did, how he taught, his entourage. You have his story in English, Chinese, Sanskrit, Tibetan. Think about that. You do have it, use it!

Why do we need to, goddamn? We think, "Oh yeah, I can do that, it is okay because I am so pretty! I am so rich!" Yeah, sure, you can go ahead and do that negative thing, whatever it is. You will screw up yourself! You think it is okay because you are so handsome or powerful? Sure. You are eating your own shit—is that what makes you powerful? We don't need to do that. Enough is enough! Instead we need to recognize our faults, our poisons, slowly, slowly.

Don't go back and repeat yourself again and again. Where is it that we would go back to, the negativity that we would go back to? Where did we come from? Since we were born we have been filled with negativity. Since the time we were so little, always saying, "Mommy! Mommy! Daddy! Daddy! Mine! Everything is mine! I want! I this! I that!" Then after awhile you think everything belongs to you. Ho, ho, ho, we are crazy. We think everything belongs to us? Nothing belongs to us. You need something that belongs to you? Then you need to practice, you need to practice taking refuge in Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, or you need to practice Vajrasattva, Kilaya, Guru Rinpoche, Chenrezig. We have plenty that we can practice if we need something, if we need something to belong to us. Hey, we do have it, don't be stupid, don't go a crooked way. Step by step, we need to go. Please, please, we need to wake up. Wake up and listen, learn, and remember the lamas who came, how high they were, what kind of teachings they gave, what kind of empowerments and transmissions. We have received everything. We got everything. Now what?

No matter how high the lamas were who came, and no matter how high the teachings and initiations that they gave, they can do nothing if we don't practice. Now what? Now what do we do? Are we hopeless? No. We are not hopeless. We have good fortune, very good fortune. We can practice. We can teach. Can't you? Then what is your problem? Is it that you are too busy chasing the ladies and chasing the guys? Shameless ladies to need so many husbands, one

in front and one behind, surrounding them! Or the men who need four or five ladies, hiding them under their blanket! Like that, for example?

Why do I know about this? I went through that channel. I did see, everything. Step by step your tradition, your style, your habit, I went through that; therefore, I do know. Therefore, please, don't cheat yourself. You are not an animal. You have a human precious body. You are a human being. You speak a language—Chinese, Tibetan, Hindi, French. You speak and you do understand what you speak, don't you? That means you do understand if you are lying or cheating, doesn't it mean that?

Happy New Year—is happy new year just for a new year only and forget everything else? No. The real happy new year is anytime you recognize your dirty body, your dirty mouth, the dirty whole thing garbage of your mind. Recognize that the garbage in your mind is going to harm you, you will harm yourself for many lifetimes. Who is going to harm you? Your mind is going to harm you. But...if you want benefit, your mind is also the one that is going to benefit you. Your mind can give you liberation, you can be liberated. You can be liberated from the garbage, from inside the shit, to the buddhas' and bodhisattvas' places. Whatever you are practicing, by saving merit and dispelling obscurations, that is the result you will get, step by step.

Everybody thinks, "Oh, I'm going to kiss him!" Is that going to liberate you? "Oh yes, because he is handsome!" Does that mean he will never die? Or they say, "Oh, she is very pretty!" The bottom line is that both are demons, he and she. Stupid! We are so stupid.

But try to take your opportunity. If you want to benefit yourself in general or even become a buddha, you have the opportunity right now as a human being. You have received so many empowerments, so many teachings from high lamas, from real bodhisattvas. Look, from the emanations of Vimalamitra and Vairochana! Do you think they are just funky guys, like ngakpas chasing the ladies' butts, licking them? No. No, they are buddhas, they are trying to help sentient beings.

You have all connected with those—H.H. Penor Rinpoche, Dudjom Rinpoche, Yangthang Rinpoche, Dodrupchen Rinpoche—therefore, there is nothing wrong with your lineage, nothing! But don't waste it! Our life is getting shorter and shorter. Right now I am blah-blah-blah, lying to you, but I don't have anything myself, I am already dying. If somebody tells me, "Oh, you are dying! You are dying soon!" already it is too late. How am I dying? I am dying, screaming, trying to grab something, grabbing everywhere and screaming. There is nothing to grab, nothing outside to grab—what are you going to grab, sticks and stones, material things? You can't grab material things, there is nothing there to grab at the time of your death. You are going to scream? Why are you going to scream, what good will that do? Really, if you want to

scream, instead of screaming, which is of no benefit, you should take this real opportunity that you do have.

What we got from Penor Rinpoche, Dudjom Rinpoche, Yangthang Rinpoche, everything we got from them is actually the Dalai Lama's kindness. The whole thing, we got everything, but we ignored it. Who is practicing? How much have we ignored the empowerments that we got? Who is keeping their samaya and practicing nicely? We think, "I am smart! I got empowerments! I got teachings!" Then what did they say in the empowerments, in the teachings? What did they say your samaya was? What was your commitment? It was to practice, to benefit others, other sentient beings; to change your mind, to change your self-centeredness, to be compassionate, to have faith and trust in the buddhadharma. We do the opposite. What is the benefit? It looks like we really waste our energy. It looks like really we waste everything. Really we waste the energy of everything we got.

Here at O.D.D. we got empowerments from Penor Rinpoche, Yangthang Rinpoche, Tulku Theglo, everybody, so many empowerments we got. Then what happened afterwards? Some people came to me and said, "Oh, Gyatrul didn't make it nice for us! He didn't do right by us! He should have put us up on a high special seat, up on a throne! We needed some special place! I didn't get that seat, I didn't get a special place!" How many people were there? Where are you going to put everybody? You were lucky just to get there! You are shameless, you people. Lots of people were like that.

Really, it makes you not want to come back to this country. I don't mean just Americans, either, but others of us who are hanging here, all of us goddamn people just hanging here with our mouths open. Who are these goddamns, you ones who are hanging here with your mouths open, waiting for some big, wonderful thing to come into your mouth? No, no, no. I don't think wonderful things are going to come into your mouth, into your open giant mouth. The wonderful things are the teachings that you have been getting. Getting the blessing. More than that, what are you going to get? Do you want to keep the samaya or do you want to just pop up? No. Don't pop up. Particularly don't do like the Tibetans, don't follow that.

This is my request. Benefit everything, step by step. I am going to order you guys, or request you guys, or bow down my head to your butt, to do that.

Here, look, this guy is smiling, really happy when I say naughty things like that!

Everyone has taken refuge. What do we need to keep refuge, what is it that you have learned? Refuge is this commitment, or that commitment, but we forget. We forget what we have learned and we just want to go MY WAY. No.

Yes, your way, you can go your way, that is true; but I think we should have compassion for the Buddha. Have compassion for him and go his way a little bit. Maybe that will benefit us. Maybe it would be that kind of beneficial thing, to go his way instead of OUR WAY. Everybody try, step by step, try.

When you save money, for whom are you trying? For yourself. When you go to school, it is for yourself. If you get married, it is for yourself. If you make a baby, it is for yourself, same thing. And it is the same thing with dharma practice, it is for yourself, for your own benefit. Here we have one man working, his name is Shad, he is a naughty boy. Does he think he is cutting the trees for you? No, for his money. Does he think he is naughty for you? No, it is his naughty habit, that kind of stuff. Shashi thinks she has a big butt, and that is very valuable, very special. Ila thinks her sister has a big butt, but she herself has some other big thing. What is it? No comment! Drimed Lodro thinks, "I am popular! I am popular, and American, and Chinese—everything! I am handsome and naughty!" Uh oh! I am going to send an email to his uncle Lobsang Chopel—he is a real living buddha, that lama.

Anyway, I am crazy, but everybody try and don't be slick.

In dharma practice, you need honesty and faith and trust, but you don't need anything slick. You think, "Oh, I am pretty! I am handsome! I am smart!" We are not smart. Not pretty. Not handsome. Our style is yucky. Try, please. I have nothing handsome, nothing fancy, nothing wonderful, some gentle wisdom for you guys. Not praising you up into the sky. I don't know, I am not that kind of scholar. I am dumb-dumb. Therefore dumb-dumb talk. Dumb-dumb tell you, therefore, maybe you are going to get angry, but what to do? I am dumb-dumb dumb! Maybe you are going to get sad—still I am dumb-dumb.

Beyond that I don't know anything. I try. Since 1973 I have tried. Since then I have been in America and Canada, trying. Then to Canada, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, here and there. It looks one way like it was fun, wonderful; but the bottom line is, I was just a beggar.

Anyway, you guys help each other, help me for yourself. Practice purely, cleanly, nicely. What you don't know, you have dharma brothers and sisters, so ask them. If you have food, but you shut your mouth, then what is the benefit? If you are practicing but your eyes are bulging or you are sleeping, is that going to help your practice? You have to understand the meaning of your practice, the reason. Maybe you know how to beat the drum, is that enough? I don't think so. I think you need to know the reason. Maybe you can play the trumpets, these and those things. Just the instruments themselves, you are just using bamboo. If you don't have the meaning, then there is no reason there. Think about these things.

Think about stuff and don't do like I did, just dumb-dumb.

Drop your concern with being handsome, drop your pretty, drop your smart, drop your powerful one, all the self-centered stuff. Drop it a little bit, and then look at other sentient beings. You need to have compassion for them. You need to have respect for them. Why? Is that going to benefit them? Yes, maybe benefit a little; but bottom line the real benefit is for yourself. That's all. Honesty really will benefit us and benefit others. Or we say faith. Faith in what? Faith in Buddha. We don't listen and follow the Buddha. The Buddha was for sentient beings. His teachings were for the benefit of sentient beings. Whatever we can talk about, his everything was to benefit sentient beings. For us, whatever we do with our body, speech, and mind, everything, we are trying to benefit our self. So ourselves can grow up into the sky, that is what we are trying to do. Forget growing up into the sky! If you are too much self-centered, forget about growing up into the sky—you will grow down to hell. Is that a fun kind of benefit? No, no.

Therefore, right now! Right now you have your opportunity. Right now! Right now you have it. You are young men, young ladies or whatever. You practice right now. You have freedom. Practice! You have the freedom to practice, and people to support you. If you don't know something, somebody can support you and help explain, help you understand. You can support others. You can teach others. Teach nicely. If you teach nicely, then the second time when you teach again or teach more, you understand more and more yourself. You learn more and more yourself, step by step.

Then, don't be stuck in your position. Don't think, "I am a teacher!" It means nothing. You are a practitioner. Watch your motivation, how you have faith when you practice, how you have compassion for sentient beings. Or maybe not. Maybe you have no faith, no compassion. Then you are hollow and useless, like me. Right now I can see your guys' picture here on the computer. Who made this, did Americans make it or did I make it? I think I did, I think I made it!

Everybody, then happy practice, continuously. Watch your yucky things. Okay, good night! Or good-bye or whatever!

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral